

Cumberland Fire District

Bruce A. Lemois, Chairman

Phillip Koutsogiane, Vice Chairman

Cynthia Ouellette, District Three

James Scullin, At-large

Christopher Parent, District One

Ronald Champagne, District Five

Frank Matta, At-Large

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

**CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL, EVERETT "MOE" BONNER, JR. TOWN CHAMBERS
45 BROAD STREET, CUMBERLAND**

REGULAR MEETING

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Call to Order

- a. Chairman calls order at 7:00pm

2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Chairman calls out officers Ramos and Lui from the NYPD.

3. General Announcements

- a. None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Acceptance of 12/09/2014 minutes

- a. Approval moved by Commissioner Champagne, second by Parent, passed 7-0

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FC-R-2014-06 Concerning new position of Assistant Chief

- i. Approval moved by Commissioner Champagne, second by Matta, passed 7-0.

Adjourn into executive session according to RI General Law 42-46-5(1) items relating to personnel issue.

Commissioner Ouellette moved to go into executive session, second by Parent, passed 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The search committee reported their findings with the pre-interview question package and interview questions. The search committee reported that they will recommend Chief Finlay at a 3-1 vote. Voted for Finlay: Lemois, Champaign and Matta. Voted for Jackvony: Koutsogiane.

Commissioner Ouellette asked if the full committee just takes the recommendation or do we vote on this appointment. Chairman Lemois noted that the search committee is a recommendation and that each Commissioner's vote is theirs to do with as they please.

Commissioner Ouellette made some comments about the resumes, specifically about the education sections. She had reviewed both candidate's pre-interview package.

Commissioner Koutsogiane restated his support for Chief Jackvony and that he felt both pre-interview packages were very similar, presented in different styles, but saying the same.

There was discussion on the process with Commissioner Scullin having strong disapproval. He voiced that he felt that there was a "witch hunt" for Jackvony by Chairman Lemois.

Though when requested for facts to support this claim Commissioner Scullin could only point to our meeting reviewing the grievances; Commissioner Scullin claimed Chairman Lemois "through Chief Jackvony under the bus." It was noted by Chairman Lemois that Commissioner Scullin, present at said meeting, had not expressed any concern at this meeting. In fact, disagreed with Chief Jackvony about the time we would need to hire a Chief; Chief Jackvony thought it would be 3 or months and Commissioner Scullin agreed with the Chairman that we need to complete this as soon as possible.

Commissioner Lemois noted that as he came into this process he only knew Chief Jackvony and not Chief Finlay. Commissioner Lemois said he actually was supporting Chief Jackvony and met with him to ask for the Chief's support as a commissioner. While working with both Chiefs and the interview processed he was able to get a more complete understanding of both men and support Chief Finlay.

Commissioner Scullin went on to say he was told the interview was more of an inquisition. Reporting that Chief Jackvony had gone to him complaining.

Commissioner Matta stated his support for Chief Finlay and in fact noted that it wasn't a level playing field as he had received two calls asking him to support Jackvony and note for Finlay.

Commissioner Champagne expressed his support for Chief Finlay and that we have had a lengthy discussion and that he feels we are ready to go and vote.

Commissioner Parent noted that though he worked for the Valley Falls Fire District and left to go to Pawtucket he took the time to review both candidate's interview package and decided to support Finlay.

Chairman Lemois noted for the record all but Commissioner Scullin took the time to review both candidates' interview package.

There was discussion as the amount of discussion once we go back into public session. Commissioner Champagne suggested that there was enough here and going through this again in public would not do anyone any good.

Commissioner Sculling requested that both candidate's names be put up for consideration. Chairman Lemois agreed and explained that we would do a roll call vote and each commissioner would say the name of the Chief they supported.

BACK OUT AT THE BENCH

Commissioner Scullin moved to return to open session, second by Commissioner Champagne, passed 7-0.

Chairman Lemois noted that the minutes would not be sealed.

Chairman Lemois asked Commissioner Scullin for a motion. He moved to place both Chief Jackvony and Finlay in nomination for Chief of the department, second by Commissioners Champagne and Ouellette.

ROLL CALL VOTE: SCULLIN – JACKVONY, CHAMPANGE – FINLAY, OUELLETTE – JACKVONY, KOUTSOGAINE – JACKVONY, MATTA – FINLAY, PARANT – FINLAY, CHAIR SUPPORTED FINLAY.

Committee voted 4-3 to offer the position of Chief of the department to Chief of the Department.

Commissioner Scullin moved to offer the position of Assistant Chief to Chief Jackvony second by Koutsogiane passed 7-0.

Chairman Lemois congratulated both men and noted that they are both very important to the success of the merger and are already hard at work.

Chairman Lemois stated that the offer of the position of Chief of the Department take effect immediately and requested Chief Finlay to take control of the Cumberland Fire Department; its buildings, equipment, apparatus and above all our men.

He also stated that the Committee is confident that we are positioned to go forward and complete the merger with the success everyone expects of the CFD.

6. PUBLIC INPUT

- a.** There was no input.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a.** Move for adjournment by Commissioner Koutsogiane, second by the complete committee, passed 7-0.